



6th Grade Social Studies

Mr. McLaurin

Dear Parents:

I want to start by welcoming you and your child to my class. I am looking forward to a wonderful, productive year with your child. My desire is to work in partnership with parents. Teaching is a joy, and I am very pleased to be here at WoodCreek Junior High School. The students in my classes are my first priority. The mark in my classroom will be set high but within your child's reach. I will strive to provide your child with a positive safe learning environment with a rigorous yet relevant curriculum.

As a pedagogue and professional practitioner, I believe every child can learn and educators must push students to develop beyond their self-expectations. I have previously taught eighth grade social studies at WoodCreek Junior High School and Central Middle School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. I have also taught math and reading through the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program for at risk fourth and fifth grade students at Levi Milton Elementary in Walker, Louisiana. I graduated from Louisiana State University with a Bachelor of Arts. My degree is in History and Secondary Social Science Education. My areas of historical interest and study are the Antebellum South, American political/government development, and global economic development. Currently, I am pursuing a Master of Education degree from the University of Saint Thomas. I am certified to teach social studies for grades six through twelve in Louisiana and grades four through twelve in Texas.

A student developing cultural capital has become imperative for success in today's global economic market. It is important for parents to understand social studies education is changing to meet the challenges of today's world. Social studies is not just recalling or memorizing dates/events; today's social studies provides students with the knowledge, critical thinking skills and experiences that will allow them to grow into effective citizens. The social studies curriculum does cover some of today's sensitive issues including religion, civil rights issues, and political issues; this is critical in a comprehensive social studies course. Students must learn to analyze, evaluate, create, and defend individual theses to take their place as effective, participating members of our democracy. The goal is to illuminate the essential connection among social studies learning, democratic values, and positive citizenship.

This school year, I expect to make great progress with students. I will be facilitating your child's academic, social, and emotional growth in my class. I want to have a positive impact in your child's life. I plan to prepare my students to be competitive in a global economic workforce and responsible members of our society. I encourage you to contact me about any concerns you may have about your child's education. I appreciate immensely the opportunity to share with you this deep commitment to your child's education. By keeping our eyes on the mark, we will realize our vision for our most valuable resources---the children of Katy.

Respectfully,

R. Chase McLaurin

"Today's Social Studies... Creating Effective Citizens"

National Council for the Social Studies